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GUN - TALK

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
SASKATCHEWAN GUN
COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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COVER

Eighteenth century flintlock boarding piece from the collection of Ray King Regina, Sask.

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EDITORIAL

Since the old suit was getting a bit tight and starting to bulge at the seams, we went out and bought a new one for GUN TALK. The style and cut are different. This is because members told us they wanted a bigger and better publication. GUN TALK, they maintain, is what really ties the Saskatchewan Gun Collector's Association together. Members living poles apart can, in a sense, meet and chat through the pages of their own publication. In fact, this is the only communication link a good many members have.

At the annual meeting of the Association last August, members had some sound advice. Keep GUN TALK Canadian, they urged. As you will see by the contents, we are attempting to do just that.

The other day an out-of-town friend dropped in. In the course of discussion, he noted that he needed some Winchester parts and did I know where he might get them. "No, but why not try GUN TALK's 'Parts I Need' column? I asked. "Well now, I never thought of that", said my friend with a note of surprise in his voice, "but I'll certainly try it". There must be a great many other Association members who need parts for certain pieces in their collections. GUN TALK's free 'Parts I Need' column can help.

Something members can do to help make GUN TALK really interesting is send along letters to 'The Members Write" column. It might be a note on a piece you've just picked up and about which you would like more information. Maybe some other member has the answers. You may have come across some interesting data throwing new light on a particular weapon or cartridge. Why not share it through GUN TALK. Have you any helpful hints or ideas to pass along to fellow members? Let's have them ! You may have opinions or "beefs" you'd like to get off your chest. There's really no end of things to write about, so we'll look forward to hearing from you.

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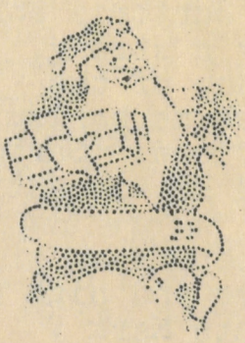


"IN MY COLLECTION"

THE SARTORIS CARBINE
By SYD WHITE

I have been asked to write an article about any item in my collection, provided I select the Sartoris carbine. I agreed, of course. Our editorial staff always deserve full co-operation - even when they stick their necks out in this manner. So, here goes:

If I were asked which item in my collection I consider more thoughtfully than I do any other, I would have to say that it is my Sartoris breechloading flintlock carbine. This beautiful little weapon intrigues me, not only because of its comparative rarity and delightful proportions, but also because of the complete absence of any maker's name, proof marks, inspection marks, etc., and (most interesting of all) because of the many features that it possesses in common with its famous contemporary, The Baker. I was fortunate in being able to acquire the Sartoris when the W. W. Greener collection was auctioned in London in July, 1960. Not being a "big league" collector, I passed up opportunities to bid on several other desirable items, just to concentrate my resources on this one. I have never regretted doing so.

Urbanus Sartoris was the inventor of the interrupted screw-thread breech joint for firearms, described in his London patents of 11 March, 1817 and 23 January, 1819. (He also took out patents in Paris). A few rifles and carbines were constructed and the Board of Ordinance was briefly interested, but the Sartoris system was never officially adopted for military firearms. George ("english Guns & Rifles", P.181) states that the Sartoris was used by a "limited number of volunteers", but evidently not in sufficient numbers to prevent Sartoris's business from going into liquidation in 1826, (Blackmore, P.89).

Why did Sartoris fail? The search for a successful breechloader attracted the attention of a number of inventors in those early days of the 19th century, despite a certain measure of prejudice in favour of the old muzzle-loaders, and whoever could develop a really successful system had reasonable prospects of receiving a substantial military order. Sartoris produced the best system of all, but he was fated to be one of those unfortunate inventors whose offerings to progress are always too far ahead of the other developments in related fields so necessary to success. In his case, although Sartoris solved the problem of obturation in breechloaders by inventing a strong, perfectly gas-tight breech, he failed because the residue of the black powder of his day fouled the threads of the breech mechanism, causing the breech to jam after a few rounds had been fired. Sartoris could not know, of course, that as propellants improved his invention would appear in principle in several later types of firearms before the end of his century and even be incorporated into the breech mechanisms of all modern artillery weapons, where heavy propellant charges and high gas pressures must be contained. Even weatherby's up-to-date Mark V rifle owes a debt to the genius of Sartoris.

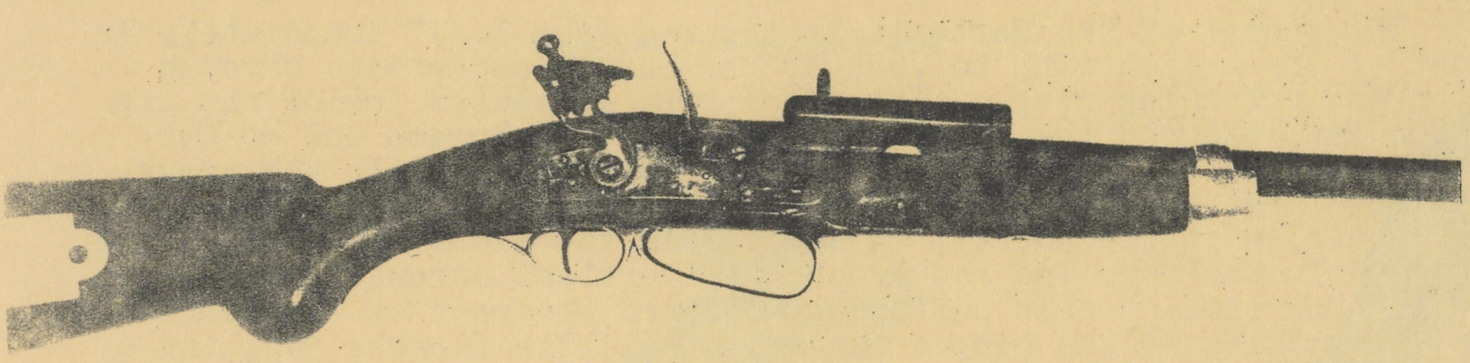
Continued -

Although George refers only to rifled arms, in his remarks on Sartoris, my carbine is a smoothbore, it is in fine condition with almost all the original russet-brown finish on the barrel and it is mechanically perfect. The fitting of its parts, quality of materials and finish of both wood and metal appear to indicate that it is the product of master craftsmen.

Its major dimensions are as follows:

Overall length	34.25"
Calibre	.655"
Length of barrel	14.375" (15.20" including breech ring)
Diameter of barrel at muzzle	.825"
Depth of hinged chamber	2.40"
Inside diameter of chamber	.72"
Weight	7 lbs.

The Carbine (breech closed)



The hinged breech chamber tips up from the front, raised by means of a ring mounted transversely near its top leading edge. The charge and the bullet are inserted while the chamber is in the raised position, after which it is lowered to meet the breech of the barrel. Prior to raising the breech chamber, the frizzen must be lowered over the pan, the hammer set at half-cock and the barrel disengaged. The last-named operation is effected by raising a folding lever on the right side of the barrel near the breech and rotating the barrel to the left through a 1/8 turn. It is then moved forward $\frac{3}{4}$" until the rear face of the barrel assembly is flush with the rear barrel ring. To lock the breech after the hinged chamber is lowered, the barrel is moved back and rotated through a 1/8 turn to the right. The lever is then folded to the rear (it is spring-hinged and comes down with a snap) where it rests against the right wing of the rear sight, thus preventing any turning motion of the barrel until the lever again israised. The major

Continued -

significance of the Sartoris principle, however, is the manner in which the gas-tight seal is achieved when barrel and breech chamber are locked together. The open end of the breech chamber is externally screw-threaded for about ¾" on four alternate segments of its circumference, each of the other intervening four segments being smooth. The interior of the breech ring on the barrel is correspondingly designed. The two parts - breech chamber and barrel - slide together, the end of the hinged chamber entering the barrel so that the threaded segments on the chamber pass into the smooth segments of the barrel portion. When the barrel isturned, the two sets of screw threads engage to provide a strong and completely gas-tight seal.

The stock is the usual one-piece type of its time and extends forward to a point 7½" from the muzzle. The fore end is comfortably full in the hand and the "feel" of the carbine is further enhanced by the pronounced pistol grip. There is a distinct resemblance to the Baker here, for the design of the pistol grip is identical with that of the 10th Royal Hussars cavalry carbine, (Blackmore, P.40, P. 147). Another baker feature in the Sartoris, the cheek rest on the left side of the butt stock - is exactly similar to that on my Baker cavalry rifle. However, the Sartoris has no saddle bar or swivels.

The barrel of the Sartoris is tapered from 1.37" immediately in front of the breech ring to .825 at the muzzle and passes through two brass retaining rings. The front ring is seated inside the cap of the fore end and the rear ring surrounds the breech end of the barrel. The motion of the barrel back and forth through the rings, and its degree of rotation, are controlled and guided by a stud, on the underside of the barrel, that moves in the slots of a base plate embedded in the fore end and secured by vertical screws from underneath. The slots permit sufficient forward movement of the barrel for the raising of the hinged chamber. A little further juggling of the barrel lever brings the stud into other slots that allow the barrel to disengage entirely from the rear ring and move forward again until it is stopped by the front ring. The barrel may then be swung down through approximately 110 degrees by means of the hinged front ring - or withdrawn from the front ring altogether by drawing the barrel to the rear.

The sights are conventional - an iron blade front sight 3/8" long and only 1/16" high, situated 1/2" from the muzzle, and a brass rear sight, seated on top of the rear barrel ring and shaped somewhat on the "buckhorn" pattern with wide wings and a vertical slit between them. All sighting must be done through the lifting ring of the hinged breech chamber which is immediately behind the rear sight, but plays no part as sighting equipment.

Among the brass mounts, evidences of the Baker again become noticeable. The butt plate is typically Baker in design and conforms exactly to the pattern diagram in Blackmore (P.114) and to the butt plate of my own Baker rifle. Another Baker similarity is the patch-box cover plate, 4½" in length as in the second type Baker rifle.

Continued -

The side-plate, too, is almost identical in pattern to that of the Baker, but is a little larger than the one on my own Baker, being 4¾" long. It is secured by two wood screws. The trigger guard is also Baker (if we ignore the hand-guard or loop ahead of it) with its long tang following the inside of the pistol grip as in the 10th Royal Hussars carbine. The brass loop forward of the trigger guard, but integral with it, could be for carrying the weapon or may be a handguard. Frankly, I don't know.

The "bolted" lock is of the flat type, 5½" long and raised slightly above the surface of the surrounding wood except for the last ½" which is flush. A safety bolt is situated in rear of the hammer and may be moved forward to lock the hammer on half-cock. The hammer itself is of the "throat-hole" type. Other features of the lock include a raised pan and a roller on the frizzen spring. And - yes, you've probably guessed - all the foregoing features appear on many Baker rifles made after 1815. The touch-hole of the Sartoris is quite large - almost .25" in diameter.

So, there it is - one Sartoris carbine, complete with Baker similarities. With good reason may George say that the Sartoris "may be described as a breechloading Baker...." (English Guns & Rifles, P.180).

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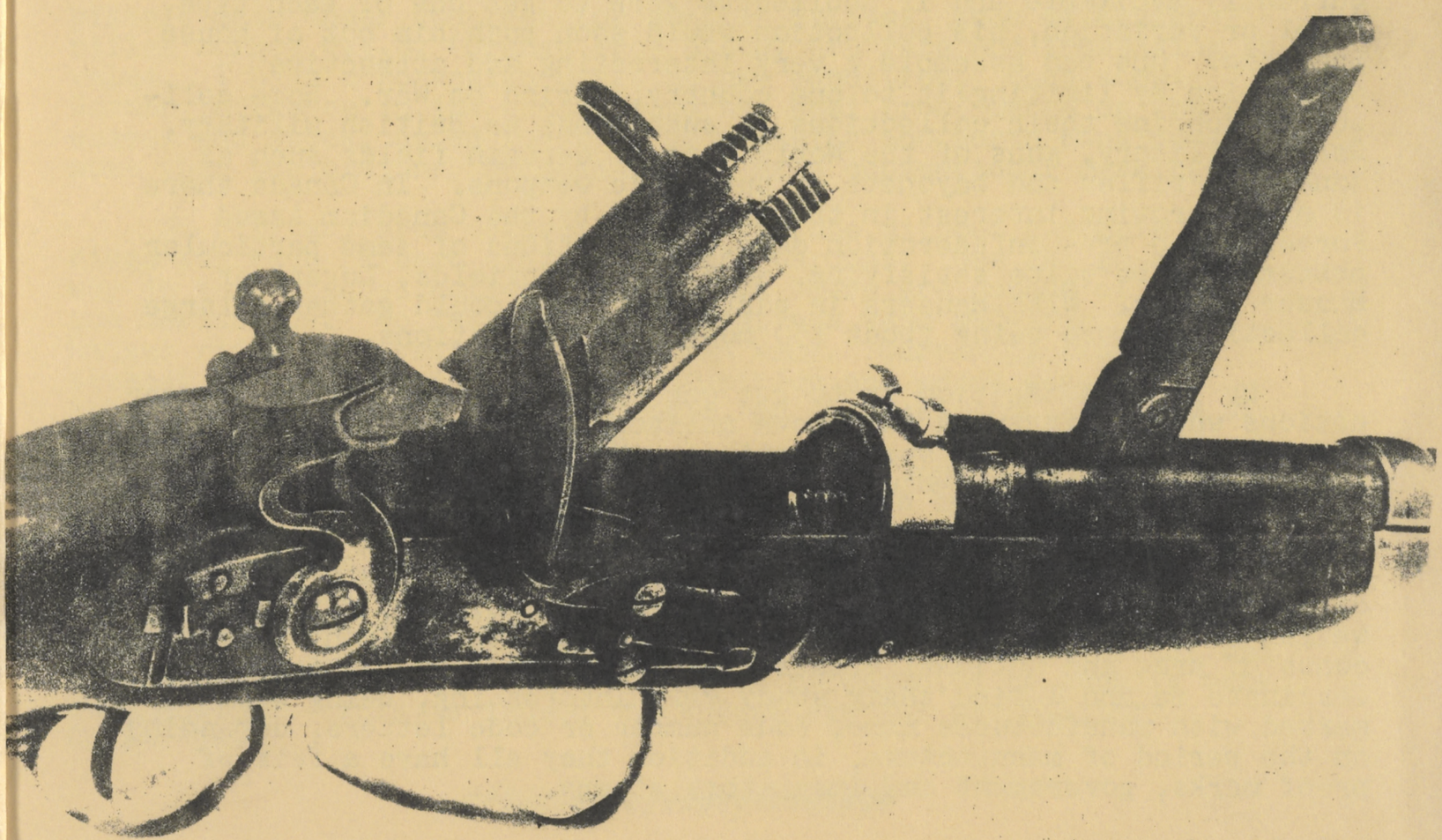

CARBINE BREECH OPEN.

COLLECTING MILITARY ARMS

By NORMAN MILLER

Many people, War Veterans in particular, show a keen interest in military weapons, weapons similar to those Dad or Grandpaw carried and faced in battle. Men who have handled and lived with these weapons over a period of months or years, look at and talk about them with a trace of nostalgia. Visions of the Worlds great battles fleet before your eyes. The wily Hun sniper in the Western Front, the gallant British Tommy in North Africa, the slinky Jap in the Pacific islands or the bold Rusky at Stalingrad.

Military guns trace the history of firearms development in the various countries and also reflect on the internal conditions and economic situation of the various nations at the time the weapons were manufactured. Guns such as the German VGI show to what depths a nation can sink and still produce efficient firearms, while military Mausers made before World War I are among the finest rifles in the world, comparable in quality and finish to some of the high-class sporters available today.

There seems to be an endless variety to the military rifles currently available and if acollector were to get one of each type, model or variation, his collection would soon push him out of house and home. One can assemble a very interesting and attractive collection by limiting it to one country, period or War. Some collectors confine their collections to such lines as British military, German military, guns of the World Wars or certain fields such as handguns, rifles and bayonets or automatic weapons. In Canada there is now a growing interest in the arms used by the Canadian Armed Forces since pre-Confederation days. Collections of same particular pattern can be quite satisfying, such as Lee Enfields, Lugers or Mauser rifles. With Mausers in particular, one could gather a large collection, there being about 150 models and variations.

My present ambition is to get one rifle from each of the larger nations who manufactured their own military rifles, or had them specially made to their specifications. My chief interest runs towards Luger pistols and Mauser rifles, if I ever specialize it will be in those lines.

For the man who is also interested in military history, a study of the markings, proof marks, manufacturers names, etc, can yield a wealth of information, many guns being marked with regimental numbers, coats of arms and national crests. German weapons in particular fascinate me and I find their study very interesting, being well marked with manufactures name, code number or code letters, depending on the period of manufacture, in addition they all have a fair of proof marks, government and inspectors stamps.

Continued -

Many military firearms are difficult to identify as to country manufactured in or used by. The previously mentioned markings usually throw some light on the subject. However, there are a number of good books on the market, one of the best being W. H. B. Smith's "Small Arms of the World", which I recommend highly to any collector of military weapons. The series on proof marks that has been running in the Gun Digest is also a valuable aid.

One hidden value of a military collection is the fact that many rifles can be used for hunting or target shooting. Any for which ammunition is available can be used as is or remodelled (perish the thought) into attractive sporting rifles - Mausers, Enfields, Lee Enfields and 1903 Springfields being the most desireable. For those who just like to shoot there are large quantities of surplus ammunition available and I can't think of a better way to put in a Sunday afternoon than by testing the various rifles against each other.

Despite the large quantities in which most military rifles were manufactured one does occasionally run into a rarity. Arms marked N.W.M.P. are highly valued today. Models made in limited numbers on an experimental basis or for special purposes, such as the P13 Enfield and 280 Ross military are very desireable. Also, rifles and pistols made under contract for smaller nations, such as Mauser rifles marked O.V.S. (Orange Free State) are rare and increasing in value. I have a Norwegian Krag, in new condition, that shows German influence in its outline and has Nazi proof marks on the receiver and stock, dated 1944, it is a rarity and worth considerably more than the ordinary Norwegian Krag with conventional markings.

No military arms collection is complete without a sample cartridge for each firearm and an original bayonet. One can go a long way in this bayonet collecting alone as there are dozens of types and variations. No less than 40 variations were made for the 98 Mauser rifle, as issued to the German army. Currently there are several firms importing surplus ammunition and edged weapons. Albion Arms of Peterborough, Ontario and International Firearms of Montreal offer good assortments.

Collecting military arms and ammunition is one facet of gun collecting that is easy and comparatively cheap to indulge in. With the World's armies changing to more modern automatic weapons, hundreds of thousands of surplus rifles, pistols, etc., have been thrown on the market, many models never before available to collectors. Most of them are very reasonably priced and offer the collector and firearms student on a limited budget an opportunity to acquire many choice items. This is indeed the Golden Age for the Military Collector.

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THE 280 ROSS

By A.M. PROVICK

The popularity of cartridge collecting has increased tremendously in recent years, and along with this has been a marked trend towards specialization, particularly in Canadian specimens, or specimens with a Canadian association. The collector eventually tires of merely accumulating cartridges, selects one or more lines that appeal to him, such as Canadian military ammunition, Dominion Cartridge shotshells, etc., and is soon digging into the historical aspect.

For a single cartridge, the 280 Ross is as interesting as any, although not a large series. The demand, of course, far exceeds the supply and some specimens are very hard to find. In the 1909 Lancaster catalogue, the claim is made that Ross and Eley collaborated to produce this cartridge, about 1907. Great claims were made for it then, impressive scores were racked up with it in Ross Model 05's and 10's, and it and the rifle have been the subject of controversy ever since.

Experimental Ross cartridges from this period still survive, including the 28-1906 and the 354. The 28-1906 resembles the 280 to some extent, but the case is about the diameter of the 30/06, while the 280 is much fatter. An original box label in my possession yields the following data - 180 gr. solid bullet, 50 grs. "J" powder, muzzle velocity 2900 fs. This is dated November 1, 1906. Another uncommon experimental is the 354 Rimless, a potent looking job with 250 gr. hollow point bullet backed by 52.5 grs. of MDT. This case is merely a necked-up 280. There is no mention of this cartridge in Lancaster, and the box label I have gives no hint of manufacture date, nor velocity. Can anyone help here?

Lancaster in 1909 listed 4 loads by the Eley company in this caliber-
140 gr. hollow point, 58 grs. Neonite, 3047 fs.
160 gr. hollow point, 57 grs. Neonite, 2905 fs.
150 and 180 full metal jacket, no details given.
The cartridge was made by the Dominion Cartridge Co. with a cupro-nickel jacketed 178 grain soft point bullet.

Fairly common rounds are the Ross-loaded United States Cartridge Co. cases. These are most often seen in hollow point steel bullet and 140 grain copper tubed bullet. Ross also loaded cases with their own headstamp, noted with a steel bullet, and these are said to be of Dominion Cartridge Co. manufacture.

Winchester produced the 280 in 150 soft point and hollow point versions at 2700 fs. The Kings Norton Metal Company of Birmingham also made them, but I have not seen a specimen as yet.

The only new 280's available today are by ICI (Kynoch) Birmingham and these are easy to obtain, although at present only in the 160 gr. covered hollow point bullet at 2700 fs. Other Kynoch loads in the past were - 140 gr. hollow point at 2900 fs., 140 gr. full jacket at 2775 fs., 180 gr. full jacket at 2525 fs. Kynoch today intends their 280 Nitro more for Lancaster and other rifles than for the Ross.

Continued -

Well documented in other publications is the controversial 280 Halger HV Magnum, which in fact, is a copy of the 280 Ross, although intended for bolt action rifles produced by Halbe & Gerlich of Kiel. The 280 Halger was produced by RWS of Nurenberg for Gerlich, the eccentric responsible, and are now quite scarce. Advertised velocities, 3800 to 3900 in 140 grain and 3043 fs. in 180 grain, were impressive, but pressures, said to run to 75,000 lbs, were just as impressive and not advertised !

EDITOR'S NOTES

Recently, a highly-regarded member of the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors' Association passed away. He was A. E. Andrew, of Crandall, Manitoba. Mr. Andrew was one of the early members of the S.G.C.A. His son, Harry, also an S.G.C.A. member, was an exhibitor at the annual gun show last August. To Harry, and the other members of the Andrew family, our sincere sympathies.

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While up Meadow Lake way, recently, it was our good fortune to see S.G.C.A. member Gerry Ernewein, again. Gerry has been picking up old guns since the mid-fifties and has put together a nice collection of weapons used by pioneers of the Meadow Lake district. Gerry is interested in all old guns, but has a special liking for the early Winchesters. We once spent a very pleasant afternoon examining a beautiful deluxe 1886 Winchester he hoped to acquire.

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We stopped in to see Chet Fulmer while States-side last fall. Chet is an antique gun dealer operating out of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. It was there that we learned for the first time that Winchester actually manufactured a Model 1876 Military Musket. We were, of course, aware of the Model 1876 Military Carbine, as used by the Northwest Mounted Police, but had never dreamed that an 1876 Musket existed. Anyway, Chet had three of them, big as life, hanging up on his wall.

"How is it these rare and desirable pieces are never advertised?" we asked.

"Oh, these only go to the big, advanced collectors. These are the only boys who can or will pay the prices", my dealer friend replied. Incidentally, the price tag on the best of the three Model 1876 Muskets was $900.00.

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Collector's Corner.

FEATURING THE LLOYD TALLENTIRE COLLECTION

By FRED OSIPOFF

In this issue of GUN TALK we will deal with the Lloyd Tallentire collection. Again, Lloyd was one of the founding fathers of the S.G. C.A. and Lloyd is a Regina resident, living at 3318 Dawson Crescent. Lloyd has been very active in association work, and at present is a director of the association.

What does Lloyd collect? Military arms, and accessories. I will say that Lloyd picks up quite a bit of "Trading" material such as Winchesters, Marlins, etc., but these all go on trades to build up his collection of military arms. Lloyd has been collecting about 5 years and has built up a collection of approximately 80 pieces, of which approximately 70 are long arms.

Lloyd's aims in collecting are to amass the basic military arms of all countries that produced their own arms, and have these sets complete with bayonets, and both rifle and carbine. This is a tall order, but Lloyd says that he has a lot of time and is willing to wait. From time to time Lloyd takes into his collection arms that were not the basic military issue, but were used by the military. One such arm is his 73 Winchester Musket, complete with bayonet, in 44/40.

Other good items in the collection are a Harpers Ferry musket, 1848, in good condition. He also owns a R.C.M.P. Lee Enfield carbine, year 1898. Ross rifles are also in attendance, with models 1903, 1905 and 1910.

At a fast count some 12 countries were represented in the collection, and from what I have seen the collection grows rapidly, with new arms being added all the time. It looks like Lloyd is getting a good start towards his goal.

Lloyd also has a good cartridge collection, consisting of some 225 single specimens. It contains several good collectors' cartridges but space prevents me from going deeply into this part of the collection.

If any collector wishes to help Lloyd out in his goal he would like to obtain bayonets, unaltered military arms, helmets, and even machine guns, (legal ones) and any other items pertaining to the military of any nation.

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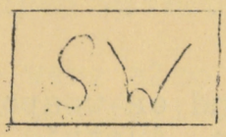
ARMOURER'S MARKS.

By S. J. KIRBY

The average gun collector is not a wealthy man, consequently, the expenditure of a large sum of money for a particular weapon is something not to be lightly undertaken. It requires that two things be taken into consideration, the first - the money - whether or not he can afford it, and secondly if the weapon is what it purports to be.

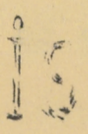
Very often small and what appear to be secret marks can easily answer the second question if a buyer is able to decipher and understand them. These, of course, are the personal marks of the armourer or gunsmith who manufactured the weapon. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but are generally placed on the lock and on the barrel near the breech. It may, sometimes be necessary to strip down the weapon to find them but any gunsmith of renown who is not ashamed of his work, will have signed it.

These marks not alone can identify the weapon, but also date it; an important item in some buys. Hereunder is a list of some more unusual markings.



This mark was used by an Irish Gunsmith who worked in Dublin, circa 1760-1790.

This mark was used by a London Gunsmith called Probin whose work is generally dated before 1725.



A Jacob Schnatz of Innsbruck is purported to have used this mark. He worked there circa 1550.

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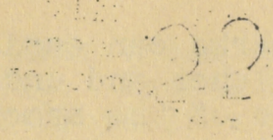
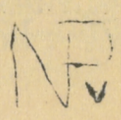
This shield mark belonged to Bernadino Cantoni who was an Italian Gunsmith who lived between 1450 & 1500.

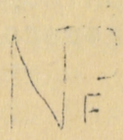


What looks like the number 22 is actually the mark of Simon Marcuarte, a Spanish Gunsmith who worked between 1530 and 1598.

Belgian proof mark on rifled firearms now operative.



Nitro proof mark now found on weapon proofed at the Vienna Proof House, Austria.



Nitro proof mark now found on weapon proofed at the Ferlach Proof House, Austria.

Space does not permit me to continue, but I hope to supply at least six or so every issue.

GUN TALK with *FRED.*

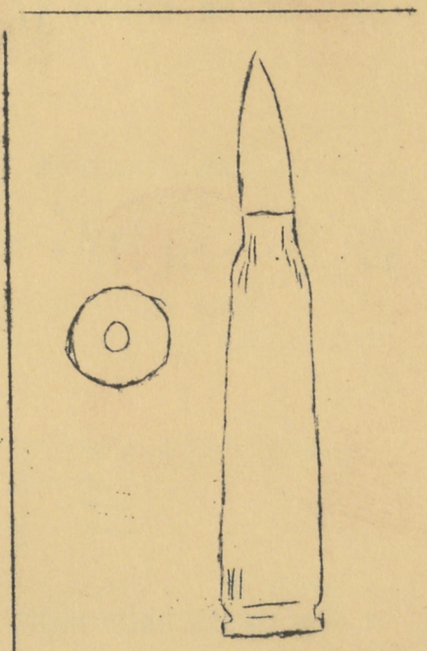
By FRED OSIPOFF

Well, here I am again with a little bit of everything. In Norman Miller's article on the Enfield last issue I was intrigued by the .276 Enfield rifle. It seems a shame that this rifle and cartridge could not be fully developed. The rifle to my mind is superior to the Lee Enfield and the cartridge is well advanced.

The other day I found a little more on the rifle and cartridge that I thought I might as well pass along. It seems that the British Government was seriously considering this rifle and calibre to take the place of the Lee Enfield. From the first specifications it looks like the government wanted a Mauser type action with S.M.L.E. characteristics. It seems like they lost quite a bit of the S.M.L.E. in the process.

Why the calibre 276, I do not know, but they wanted a rimless cartridge. Various tests were carried out and the cartridge performed quite well and was found to have sufficient wounding power at 2000 yards. Accuracy was also found to be good. What was wrong with it? Several things ! The cartridge proved to be too hot for the rifle. There was excessive metal fouling, difficulty in extraction, loud report and muzzle flash. The muzzle flash was reported to be visible at one mile. To top it off, after shooting and with the barrel hot, excessive pressure would develop. During testing no more than 15 rounds could be fired without letting the rifle cool off.

There were also a host of small things wrong with the rifle. These ranged from poor feeding to rusting of the butt plate. But by far the greatest difficulty was with the cartridge. The bullet core was of lead and antimony, with a mild steel jacket plated with cupro-nickel. The charge was 49.3 grains of cordite M.D.T. The muzzle velocity was 2,785, 345 f.p.s. faster than the 303 Mk Vii cartridge.



Various tests were carried out in an effort to eliminate the bad points in the rifle cartridge combination, with emphasis on the fouling and the loss of accuracy after approximately 3000 rounds. It seems a shame that the tests were interrupted by war as the rifle was well thought of by the troops in general and it seems likely that it could have been adapted as the standard service arm.

You will note that I have made a scale drawing of a 276 cartridge. This one is from my collection and is headstamped "K31 .276".

Continued -

Well, to get on to a few other things: - When I first got on cartridge collecting and obtaining my first coiled brass 577 Snider I thought that here is a real old cartridge. Now I find that these coiled brass 577 Snider and 450-577 Martini cartridges may not be as old as they look. It seems that Kynoch was (and may still be) engaged in the manufacture of these coiled brass babies as late as 1953. Now why make one of the oldest type of cartridges in the oldest possible way? Simple, it is cheaper. It seems that the natives in the colonies (Canada excluded) would be only too happy to get ahold of anything that would shoot so why not supply them with the cheapest. I read a letter in a gun magazine some time ago from one of these natives and he was describing his troubles in handloading. It seems that he could not get any components and was using salvaged powder and even reloading his own primers. He stated that the reloading of primers is not a desirable pasttime due to the explosive qualities of the mixture. It seems to me that he mentioned that he blew his table up in the process.

To get back to the coiled brass 577's, how do you tell them apart? I know of no way to do so other than that some of the older ones were constructed in a different way with a few variations.

I will close with a note to reloaders such as I am. When casting lead bullets, the hardest thing to get hold of is the tin. It costs money - about $1.00 per pound. I have been told that there is a supply of tin in every household. This tin is located in the most obvious of places. TOOTHPASTE TUBES. Apparently they have to be made of tin to comply with health regulations. I have not received any verification on this as of yet, but my information source is quite reliable, so start saving those toothpaste tubes and other tubes of the same nature.

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the member's write

Nick Krevosheia
12231 - 137th Ave.,
Edmonton, Alta.

..... I have something to add to A. M. Provick's article on the Hingston Smith Arms Company. There was an Edmonton, Alberta branch located at 10142 - 101st, Street until 1921. This firm is remembered by many old timers and was well known here and well liked.....

##########

309 Balsam St. N.,
Timmins, Ontario.

..... Received the latest issue of "Gun Talk". It keeps getting better all the time. Congratulations and keep up the fine work.

I collect percussion Colts and pepperboxes as a specialty and would like those listed.....

Dan W. Gaynor.

##########

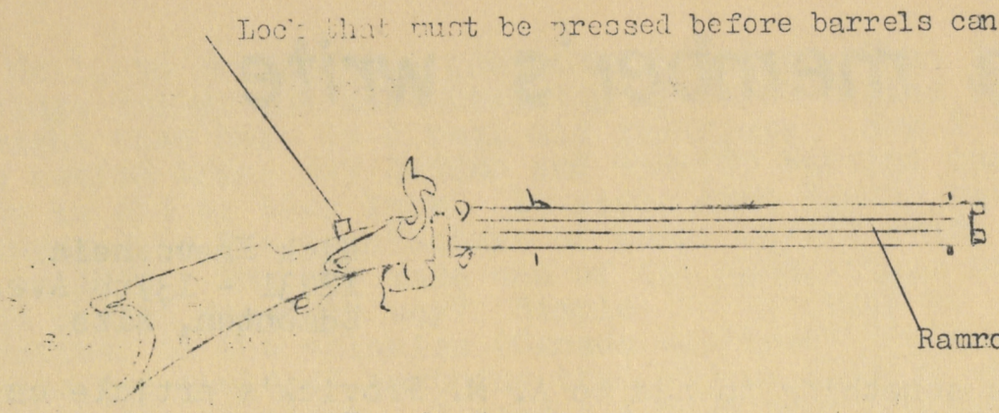
435 Belmont Ave.,
West Likdonan,
Manitoba.

..... I have in my collection a percussion rifle that may help your research of early Canadian rifles. I will try to describe it as best as possible.

First, the rifle is a hand rotated, over and under, with the name "W. H. Soper", "LONDON C.W." stamped on both barrels. I have learned since that "C.W." means Canada West.

Calibre is 44, rifled. Length overall is 47¾ inches. Barrel length is 30¼ inches. Weight is about 12 pounds. All parts are metal, except the stock, and it has round barrels.

Continued -



The sights are different for each barrel, with one sight being adjustable for elevation and the other sight fixed.

I hope that this will help your research, and at the same time be some help to me.

George Curle.

##########

EDITOR'S NOTE: William H. Soper was listed as a gunmaker in London, Ontario, from 1849 to 1864. It is of interest to note that what is now Ontario was known as Upper Canada from 1791 to 1841 and as Canada west from 1841 to 1867, when the present name was adopted. Soper was a noted gunmaker of the period. His workmanship was of the highest order. There were actually several Sopers listed as gunmakers in Canada during the mid-Nineteenth century. They include Philo Soper - London, Ontario (1851-1864), claimed by many to be the finest gunmaker of his time; John W. Soper - London, Ontario; Robert W. Soper - London, Ontario; and William Soper - St. Catherines, Ontario.

##########

Box 171,
Sintaluta, Sask.

Where can I obtain information on Stevens Single Shot rifles, and information on the Stevens Arms Company?

John Livingston.

##########

Continued -

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Stevens Arms & Tool Company was founded in 1864 by Joshua Stevens, at Chicopee Falls, Mass. In the beginning they manufactured a series of tip-up rifles, shotguns and pistols. Many different models were offered, mostly in low power calibres which were suitable for target and small game. The most popular calibre in this series was the .32-35 Stevens.

In 1894 the "Ideal No. 44" series was introduced. This was a rolling block system, operated by an under lever. Some of this series have a lug on the hammer, somewhat like the Remington-Rider, which slides under the breech for added support. Contemporary with the Ideal series was the Stevens "Favorite" - the "Marksman" - the "Crackshot". These were produced in such calibres as the .22 - .25 - .32 and .32-40. the most popular being the .38-55 Ballard and Marlin. At this time another well liked cartridge was the centre-fire .22-15-60 Stevens.

In 1903 Stevens produced the "Ideal No. 44½" series. This was discontinued in 1916. Many fine Schuetzen rifles were built on this action.

In 1920 the Savage Arms Corporation purchased the Stevens Company. Today a number of rifles in calibre .22 rimfire (such as the Model 15 and 15-Y) are still produced under the Stevens name.

You might try writing to: Ed Stephens, 1415 Ontario Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A. Ed is specializing in the collecting of Stevens pistols and rifles.

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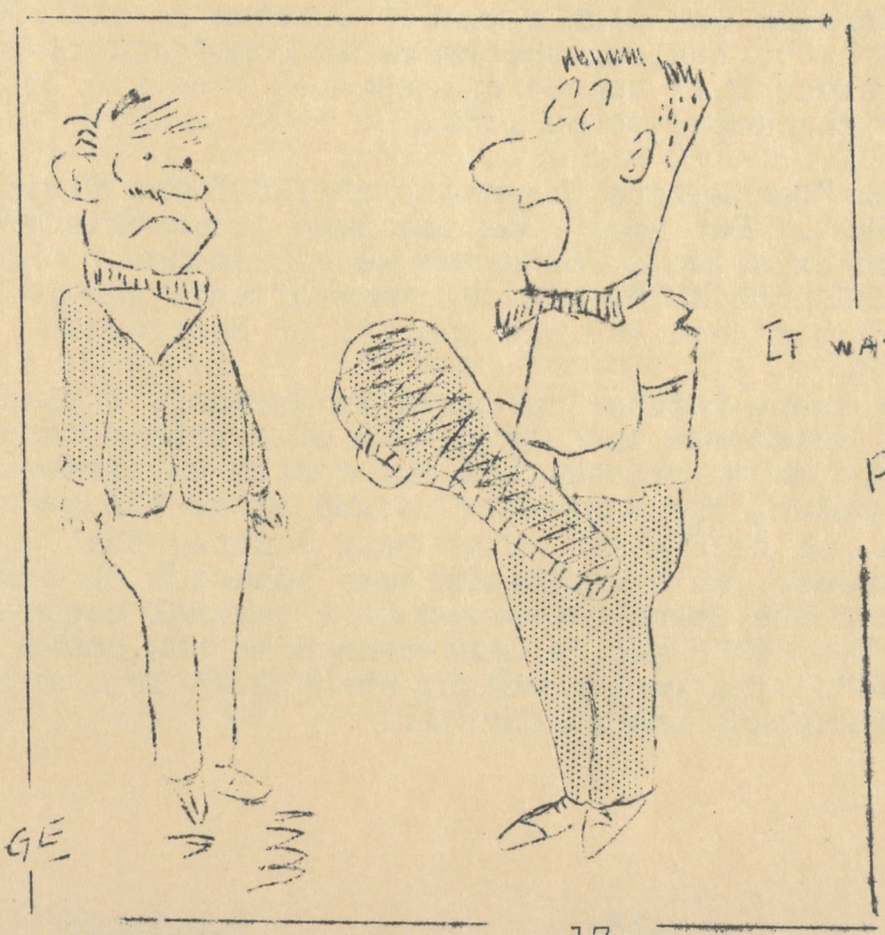


THE FIRST HANDGUN.

By S. J. KIRBY

The earliest record of small arms (shoulder arm & pistols) came from Italian sources. These early guns were very simple tubes fitted to the end of a long staff or pole. They were fired or ignited through a touch hole in the top or breech end of the tube, by a match or some other simple form of fire. The projectiles fired from these "hand cannon" consisted of lead, iron, brass, or stone balls and "garros a feu" or quarrels as used in the cross bows. The powder was, compared to later standards, very crude and had as a rule a wooden "wad" placed between it and the projectile so as to cut down on escaping gas.

The earliest written record to any of these cannonlock arms is to be found in the archives of the city of Florence in the year 1324. The "Code Germanicus 600", a book some researchers believed was written circa 1340, (others believe it was written about 40 to 50 years later) contains accounts on how to load various firearms and prepare black powder. If it is taken into account that books written about a particular object are generally written after the object has been in circulation for some time, we can conclude without danger of contradiction that small arms were in existance in the early thirteen hundreds and maybe a little earlier.

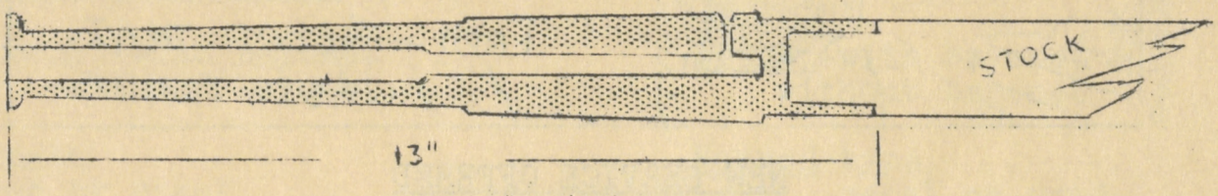
The next object then is to discover or locate a firearm dating from that period to prove this theory. General Kohler in his history of firearms mentions a bronze gun with a number written on it. This number 1322, was according to Kohler, the years of manufacture. This cannot now be verified since this weapon disappeared from the Italian monestery, (in which it was kept) about 1850.

One can find in the "Vestenberg Inventory of 1389" the first reference to "hantbuschen". But again, no specimen is in existance. The earliest gun thus in existance, for which we can document the dates, is the "TANNENBERGER BUCHSE". The history of this gun is something like that of Robin Hood and the sheriff of Nottingham.

In the late 1300's there existed in Hesse in Germany, a place called Vista Tannenberg which was the stronghold of a robber baron. His raids and thefts were so notorious that the castle was invested in 1399. After it was taken, the besiegers raised it to the ground and did such a thorough job that years after many doubted that the place ever existed. However, in the mid-eighteen hundreds excavations took place and among the items recovered were several handguns, one of which was complete. This gun, a hand-cannon is now known as the "TANNENBERGER BUCHSE". The weapon weighs about 2.75 lbs. and is made of bronze with a hexagonal shaped barrel.

Continued -

It will be noticed from the drawing that the powder or Autechamber is much smaller in internal diameter than the barrel proper. The result of this type of chambering is to cause all of the powder to ignite in a single instant rather than to burn from the corner from which it was set on fire. This in effect gives greater pressure and more velocity for the same amount of powder. This type of design was so very far advanced for muzzle loaders that it is not found common in use until about 1700, and was not improved on until Henry Nock patented his special breech, circa 1785.



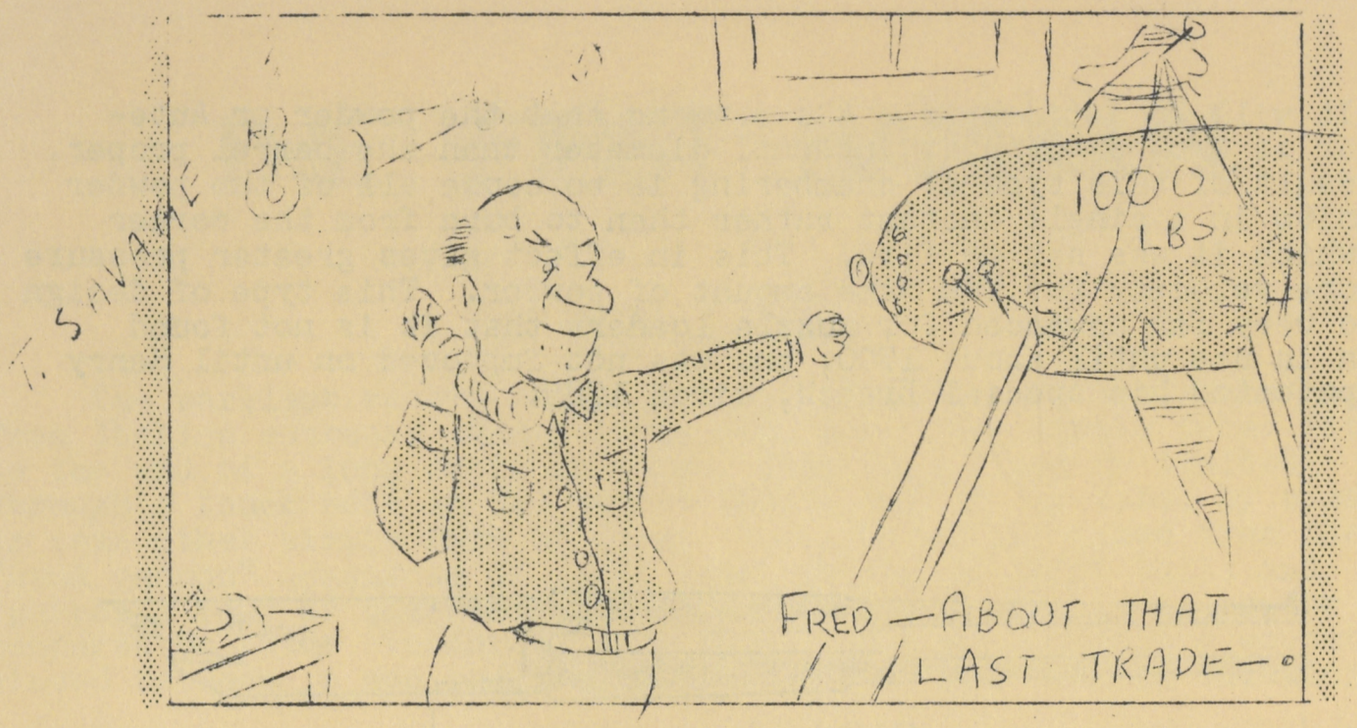
THE MONTANA ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Our neighbors to the south in Montana, U. S. A. have formed a collectors club. The club was organized on June 20, 1961, with five members present. It seems that both our clubs originated at the same time from humble beginnings.

The Montana Arms Collectors Association now have some 50 members and it is still growing. Aside from holding shows and meetings this association also publishes a monthly newsletter, "M.A.C.A. CHATTER". The M.A.C.A. has held a successful gun show and also had an exhibit at the State Fair at Great Falls. Amongst the exhibits at this show was a WALKER COLT owned by one of its members.

As secretary of the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors' Association I have been in correspondence with the M.A.C.A. since its founding and I believe that it will be a very successful club. The association seems to be very progressive and should be one of the better associations of this kind in the central states.

The president of this association is Jack Kessner, and the Secretary-Treasurer is Lewis Yearout, of 4005 - 4th Avenue N., Great Falls, Montana. The dues of this association are $5.00 per year with a $5.00 initiation fee. Anyone interested in this association is requested to write to Lewis Yearout for further information.



NEW SERVICE OFFERED

RESEARCH is part and parcel of gun collecting. One of the most valuable services our Association can provide members is an information centre - where detailed date on a wide range of weapons can be assembled and made available. Your association executive has decided to sponsor this information gathering project and urges full membership co-operation.

On the next page, you will see the data questionnaire sheet on which each member is asked to complete particulars on each weapon in his collection. As these data sheets are returned, they will be filed as member sections. Later, we hope to set up the second state of this filing system, a cross-reference according to weapon types. The system could be extended to record each member's library of reference books and ther data, further facilitating a central information and referral service.

Regular sized (8½ x 11") bond will be used for this filing system. Assembly will be in loose leaf notebooks. Data forms are being run off and will be available for members at $1.00 per 100 sheets, which is somewhat less than paper, printing and mailing costs. Remainder of the cost will be cleared from Association funds.

You may wish to order on the basis of two sheets for each weapon, retaining one copy for a file of your own. You may also wish to make up your own forms instead of ordering them.

All members are urged to co-operate in this information-gathering project. You will be repaid many times for your efforts and will be helping to build up a reference source without equal in Canada.

Send immediately for your forms, available from our secretary, Fred Osipoff, 2665 Winnipeg Street, Regina.

OWNER:_____ NO:_____

TYPE OF WEAPON

FUNCTION

IGNITION SYSTEM

CALIBRE (GAUGE)

PATTERN DATE

CIRCA

MAKER

VARIATIONS FROM PATTERN

DESCRIPTION & DIMENSIONS:

Length overall-with bayonet
without bayonet

Weight-with bayonet
without bayonet

Barrel-length
iron or steel
rifled or smooth
attached by-pins
bands
keys

Ramrod-type
metal or wood
length
no. of pipes

Sights-front
rear

Bayonet stud

Furniture

Hammer
Action

Safety bolt
Maker

Lock
Type
Conv. from flint (perc.)
Remarks

STOCK
Type
Cheek rest

Wood
Take-down

MARKS
Barrel-proof
weapon no.
maker or inventor
inspection
other

Lock-maker
Govt.
date

Butt plate-no
Regimental

Stock-Regimental
no. of weapon
inspection

CONDITION (N.R.A. STD) - Wood Metal Bore

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

RESEARCH REFERENCES

OTHER COMMENTS

Date entered_____ Date deleted_____ Disposal_____

THE FIRST WINCHESTER

By John E. PARSONS
Published by William Morrow & Co., New York, Price $6.00 (U.S.A.)

The author of this book has previously written books on the single action Colt, the Derringer & the Smith & Wesson. This particular work deals with the Model 66 Winchester and the transition from the Volcanic & Henry repeaters. It includes chapters on the Model 73 and on the N.W.M.P. Model 76. In dealing with the latter there is some good material on how to identify this particular gun. However, in giving the serial numbers of the range of 746 guns supplied to the N.W.M.P. the author has presumed somewhat, that only 746 such arms were purchased by that force. Serial numbers in the Commissions Annual Reports to the Canadian Parliament indicate further purchases were made.

This book contains some excellent reading and material and should be in the library of every Winchester collector.

BRITISH MILITARY FIREARMS - 1650-1850

By HOWARD L. BLACKMORE
Published by Herbert Jenkins, London, Price 50 Shillings (English)

This is a very excellent book for the military collector, more especially the British Military Collector. It is a result of over ten years of research in the records of the British Ordinance office. The book starts about the end of the match-lock era and ends with the introduction of the Enfield percussion rifle. There are many excellent photographs of various types of side-arms, shoulder arms and bayonets. There is much technical date including drawings of the various barrel, lock and stock markings, plus a lot of information on India pattern muskets.

Also mentioned are numerous experimental model weapons produced by such famous names as Nock & Egg.

CATALOGUES

N.A.A.C.O. - For those interested in modern arms there is a new Canadian manufacture in production down east. This is the North American Arms Corporation Limited or N.A.A.C.O., at 1480 Birchmount Road, Scarborough, Ontario. In a recent catalogue received from them, they show numerous weapons from .22 rim fire to large calibre center fire rifles. Shotguns, single, pump and auto loading are also shown. The prices of the weapons are about the same as one would pay for a similar type of imported arm.

THE RIFLE THAT CANADA BUILT

By ROGER PHILLIPS

Never was a rifle so warmly praised or roundly damned. Edward C. Crossman, dean of American outdoors writers, early in this century, called it "the rifle of my dreams". Lindsay Elliott, World War I Canadian Armourer, said it "killed at both ends".

It saw service with the Royal North-west Mounted Police and in two world wars. In the early 1900's, big game hunters took it to Africa and India and carried it the length and breadth of this continent--a few still do. It swept the boards at the Bisley matches in 1908 and at Camp Perry in 1913. The Russians used it with great success in more recent Olympic competition.

Praised or damned, it has earned a permanent and prominent place in the annals of firearms development. What is this weird and wonderful weapon that provoked a controversy which still flares up periodically in arms circles? It is, of course, the Ross rifle, the rifle that Canada built.

For the seeker of true Canadiana, the Ross holds delightful possibilities. Hitherto overlooked by most arms enthusiasts in the current fad of Colt and Winchester collecting, the Canadian-made Ross has only recently started to emerge as a collector's item of merit in its own right. The Ross has been under-rated mainly because so little is known about it. An avid gun collector who recently saw a Ross collection for the first time exclaimed "My God ! Look at all the models and types, and here I thought all along the Ross was just a military rifle used in the First World War".

The Ross rifle was the brainchild of Sir Charles Ross, a Scottish baronet, generously endowed with the inventive spirit. His first rifle was patterned after and a first cousin to the Austrian Mannlicher. It employed a straight-pull bolt, which rode back over a hammer cocking it in much the same manner as a Winchester lever action rifle. In 1900, Ross departed from this "hammer model" version and made the striker part of the bolt assembly.

In 1902, Ross presented his first military rifles for trial and subsequent acceptance by the Canadian Militia. He went on to produce the Model 1903, Model 1905 and Model 1910 military rifles. The Model 1903 was adopted as the official long arm of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and went into service with the Force early in 1905. Both the 1905 and 1910 models saw action in the First World War. Inherent weaknesses resulted in withdrawal of the Ross from the trenches in 1916. More accurate than the Lee Enfield, however, it continued as a favored sniper's rifle and was issued to home guard units and for mine-sweeper duty during World War II.

Continued -

The sporting Model Sir Charles likes to call his "India Rifle" was the .370-375, better known as the .370 Express. It came out in 1903 and was an immediate hit with big game hunters on this continent and abroad. This was followed by various grades of Model 1905 Sporters, in calibres .303 British and .35 WCF. Late in 1907, Ross announced his famous .280, still one of the hottest numbers extant. He developed his so-called "1908 action"-- the first to employ serrated locking lugs--to handle this veritable bundle of dynamite. He built both sporting and special single shot match target rifles on this action.

Last of the sporting big game rifles were the Model 1910, in .280 calibre, and the Model E-10 in .303 British and .35 WCF calibres. Ross kept busily at his drawing board and in 1912, he developed a .22 single shot rifle, brought out in sporting and military "Cadet" models.

It was said of Ross, who died in 1942, that he never stopped inventing. Many of his ideas never got past the experimental stage. Included in this catagory was a .45 auto-loading pistol, an automatic rifle and a machine gun. At one time, Ross even toyed with the idea of producing shotguns. No one has ever questioned Ross's inventive genius. In the stormy years that surrounded his career as a gunmaker, perhaps the most accurate criticism levelled at Ross was that he never stopped inventing long enough to properly perfect the products of his fertile mind.

Out of the mass of fact and fiction associated with the Ross rifle, some basic truths emerge. The Ross was, because of a weakness in basic design, a failure as a modern, rapid-fire, military weapon. On the other hand, it was, in .280 calibre, one of the most accurate and hard-hitting rifles of its time. It was, for that matter, far ahead of its time.

Today, in a quiet park on the Plains of Abraham, skirting Quebec City, carefully-tended trees and grass grow where the Ross Rifle Company factory once stood. Some of the more imaginative old habitants swear that on misty mornings, you can occasionally catch ghost-like glimpses of a great brick building with towering chimneys, and if you listen closely enough, you can even hear the clank and whirr of factory machinery mocking you from the mists.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles on the Ross Rifle. In further articles, the writer will deal with specific models, with production details, and with Ross, the man)

##########

PAY YOUR 1962 DUES TODAY

MEMBER INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Member:

Here's a chance to take an active part in the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors' Association, even though you may live hundreds of miles away. Just complete, staple or tape together, stamp and mail this sheet. The information provided will appear - along with your name and address in a special section of GUN TALK. We hope to cover the interests of several members in each issue, but this will depend on the response we get. We feel this is an excellent way for members, many who have not and probably never will meet face-to-face, to get to know one another and share common interests. It should also make for a better GUN TALK and we will welcome any suggestions in this regard.

1. My main interest(s) in collecting .....,.....,.....

2. My collection is made up of the following: .....,.....,

.....,.....,.....,.....,

.....,.....,.....,.....,

.....,.....,.....,.....,

.....,.....,.....,.....;

3. I have for trade the following: .....,.....,

.....,.....,.....,.....,

4. I would like to acquire the following weapons: .....,

.....,.....,.....,.....,

5. I have the following weapons I cannot identify:

Description .....

Description .....

6. I need parts for the following weapons:

Weapon ..... Part (s) .....

Weapon ..... Part (s) .....

7. I would like to see more stories (or sections) in GUN TALK about:

.....

8. I have information available on the following guns, cartridges, swords, etc.

.....,.....,.....,.....,

I have information on the following weapon(s): .....,.....,

.....,.....,.....,

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

MOUNTED POLICE CARBINES

By S. J. KIRBY

To ascertain anything of the Snider carbine issued to the N.W.M.P. in 1873, one must delve into the history of shoulder arms of the British army. In 1852 the first official army rifle to bear the name Enfield, came into use. Manufactured at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock in Middlesex, England, it was a nine pound muzzle loading rifle of .577 calibre with three lands and grooves making one complete turn in six feet six inches.

While it is a fairly easy matter to load and seat a ball on the charge in a smooth bore weapon, the rifled firearm presents a different problem because the ball or bullet must fit tightly into the rifling; and, it requires a lot of force to do this when the weapon becomes fouled. To facilitate loading, some people used mallets but this was not too practical for the military. Thus the "Pritchett" bullet, with its smaller outside diameter of .568 inches, came into existence.

This was a hollow base bullet which, when fired, its base expanded to fill the lands and grooves. Later used was a .55" diameter bullet with a hollow base, into which was fitted a wooden plug. On firing, the wooden plug was driven forward causing the bullet to expand and fill the rifling. This bullet was similar in principal to the famous "Minieball" used in the U.S. Civil War.

In the year 1864 the British Government appointed a committee to consider whether or not a breech-loading rifle should be adopted for use by the armed forces. The committee recommended that a breech-loader be immediately adopted but in order to have time to study the designs and problems of this new type of firearm there should be an interim period in which the existing stocks of Enfield rifles should be converted to breech-loaders. To implement this recommendation, the Government solicited ideas from gunsmiths and inventors.

As expected, there was a certain amount of opposition to the introduction of breech-loaders into the armed forces. Military men feared that the ease of loading would cause troops to waste ammunition by firing too rapidly and without taking proper aim. Even today, some military minds frown on the use of automatic rifles, feeling that they cause a waste of ammunition and create too big a problem in logistics. However, in the 1860's, the opposition was insufficient to stop the testing at Woolwich Arsenal, where some 50 different breechloading systems were being tried out.

As a result of these tests, the system recommended was one submitted by Jacob Snider, an American, and his breechloading mechanism was officially adopted by the British Government in 1867.

Continued -

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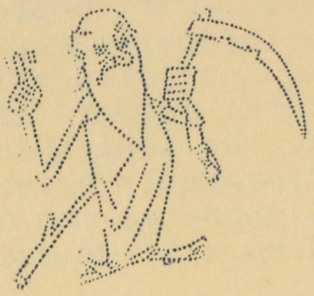

RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW

To many, a renewal subscription in GUN TALK may not be a good idea. Some of these offer the excuse that being away from Regina they cannot participate fully in the various meetings and shoots. This is true, of course, but only to a limited extent. We in Regina wish you were here, there is much work to be done. For example, the setting up of this magazine, readying the form, chasing people for articles or for advertising and many other small jobs ad infinitum. Yes, we wish you were here and then brother, would you work.

But aside from membership in the S.G.C.A. look at this quarterly journal. It is the only regular publication devoted to the arms collector that is produced in Canada and on an amateur basis at that. It gives you the collector a chance to know your fellow collector. It offers you, free of charge, a space wherein you may inquire for those missing parts. It offers you advertisement space at a minimum figure. It offers you a free research bureau, where if we cannot give all the answers, we can put you on the right track.

Now, if we can grow in circulation, we can grow in size, we can give better paper, better printing and maybe one day color. So help us. You as a gun collector must know at least one man or boy who is interested in this field, so enlist him as a member or send him a present of membership for Christmas or the New Year.

There is also one excellent way in which you can more fully participate in membership. Write us about that prize possession of yours, even if it is only a half dozen lines. We guarantee to publish it, and if you have a photograph (it should be on a matt finish paper) send it along too. In a way, we are not unlike the 'United Appeal' - every little bit helps. So to members old and new - PUT FORTH!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from your Editorial Staff.

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The breech action of this rifle belongs to the laterally-swinging block class, and was especially advantageous when fitted to the existing stocks of Enfield muzzle-loaders as it did not weaken the stock by cutting away too much wood. This system contained a block hinged on the right side which was opened by lifting up, thus allowing the cartridge to be loaded into the chamber. In order to extract the cartridge, the block was raised and drawn to the rear, compressing a spring which returned it to the closing position. Ejection was made by turning the weapon upside down.

In later models of the Snider, the block was held in the closed position by a spring catch on the left side. A firing pin passed diagonally through this block with one end resting against the primer and the other exposed to the hammer. The lock mechanism, hammer and trigger and springs, were those used in the original percussion cap muzzle-loading Enfield rifle. A feature found in the British army Snider, and missing in most of its imitations, was an iron shoe which backed the breech-block and gave protection to the shooter in the case of a blow-back from a faulty cartridge.

It is of interest to note that a large sum of money was paid to Mr. Snider for his patent by the British Government which, at that time, had a similar action on a flint-lock rifle among its collection in the Tower of London, dating from the 17th century.

During the trials of the breech-loaders, consideration was also given to the type of cartridge to be used with the new rifle. Fixed ammunition, then in existence, had various types of paper or linen cases which were satisfactory, due to the lack of obturation at the breech. The hot gases often split the case and blew back into the shooter's face.

In 1866, the British Government adopted the first fixed ammunition of the centre-fire type. This cartridge was developed by Col. Boxer, who, at that time, was Superintendent of the Royal Laboratories and the primer still bears his name. The case of body of the cartridge was made of thin brass sheeting glued to brown paper and rolled into a cylinder. To the head was riveted an iron washer which acted as a rim. The bullets in the first cartridges had both a hollow nose and base. The base was filled with a clay plug which acted in the manner of the wooden plug previously described. The hollow nose was designed to give the projectile a greater length for the same weight, rather than for a wounding effect. The longer bullets had more surface area to engage in the rifling, and stripping was minimized, an important factor with the soft lead bullets used in those days.

The official name given to the new army rifle was the "Snider-Enfield". During the time that the Enfield rifles were being converted to breech-loaders, the Enfield carbines of the cavalry and the Whitworth carbines of the artillery were also handed in for conversion. The converted Enfield carbines were the ones forwarded from England in the fall of 1873 and issued early the following year to the N.W.M.P.

The next carbine issued to the Force was the Winchester Model 1876. Fifty of these were purchased on a trial basis in 1878. A second lot of 50 was received in the year 1880, and by December,

Continued -

both "A" and "F" Divisions were armed with these new repeating rifles. These divisions, with a total strength of 102, officers and men, patrolled the country in which the Sioux, newly arrived from the States and the Custer massacre, were living.

Certain defects, noted in the early Model 1876, were brought to the attention of the manufacturer. Chief among these was the securing of the rear sight by the use of two screws. This provided a means of differentiating the N.W.M.P. carbine from the normal commercial 1876 model. While this carbine was not entirely taken out of service until shortly before World War I, it was never completely satisfactory. It was the last of the toggle-link actions manufactured by the Winchester Company on the Volcanic and Henry patents. Complaints were frequent and dealt mostly with the accuracy and ease with which the barrels became pitted. The strength of the weapon, at the small of the stock, was another recognized weakness. While there is no doubt that the weakness of certain of the component parts was an inherent feature of the Model 1876, the accuracy of the weapon provided cause for debate. In his report to the Commissioner in December 1888, Supt. A. Bowen Perry stated:

".....The men took a great interest in the shooting and a number of them carried off valuable prizes at the annual meeting of the Rifle Association of this place". (Prince Albert)

During the same year, Supt. R. Burton Deane mentioned in his report that good shooting was done with the Winchester carbine. In describing the marksmanship, he spoke of methods then used by members of the Force to supplement their diets, methods which today would be frowned upon by various Provincial Game Departments. Supt. Deane stated:

"..... Target practice is now going on and will continue as long as the weather permits. The men have just returned from outpost duty and have had a good deal of practice during the Summer and many of them are excellent shots. A man who can kill a prairie chicken or a goose with a bullet at an unknown range does not require to expend much ammunition at a target".

From what was gleaned out of various reports, it appeared that the Winchester, if kept in fair condition, would render good service. However, both the front and rear sights were exposed to knocks and blows. The commissioner's annual reports to Ottawa continually mentioned bent front and loose rear sights, defects easily corrected by an armourer. However, great distances precluded frequent contact with Headquarters and access to the armourer's shop.

Badly pitted barrels were another source of complaint; this however could not be blamed completely on the weapons or on poor cleaning, as black powder and corrosive primers were used. It was not until 1886 Commissioner Herchmer mentioned in his annual report, that the Force was now completely armed with Winchester carbines.

Although withdrawn from service, the Snider was not completely dispensed with by the Force. Some, retained in the Q.M. stores at various divisional points, were issued in cases of emergencies to special constables, Indian scouts and others.

Continued -

While the N.W.M.P. were using the Winchester repeating carbines the Canadian and British armies, together with other major armies, were using single shot weapons.

In 1871 the British army adopted a new single shot rifle, the Martini-Henry, which was also taken into service by Canada. This weapon was of the falling-block type and of .45 caliber. Not until December 1888 did the repeating rifle come into use by the British. Called "magazine rifle Mark I", it was the forerunner of the now famous Lee-Enfield. This weapon soon came to the attention of the force, and in December 1889 the Commissioner requested in his annual report to Ottawa that:

".....a limited number, say 20, of the new British cavalry carbine be procured, with a sufficient supply of ammunition, and if after a careful trial they are found suitable, 200 be obtained and later on the whole Force could be rearmed as required".

In view of the communications that existed in the middle 1880's, plus the lack of technical books and magazines, it was easy to imagine the difficulty experienced in keeping abreast of arms' development. The fact that the Force was so informed indicated its anxiety to procure newer and better arms.

Although the new rifle was adopted by the British army, it was not until September 1894 that a carbine form was manufactured. It was called "Lee-Metford Magazine Carbine, Mark I". In 1895 the first issue of 200 was made to the N.W.M.P. Later on, the "Lee-Enfield Carbines Mark I and Mark I Star" were brought into service. The major difference between the Metford and Enfield carbines was in the system of rifling, the former having seven lands and grooves, and the latter only five, which were .001 inches deeper. The Metford also had a ring attached to the left side of the butt socket and a holding bar inletted into the right side of the stock, one and a half to two inches from the butt.

A number of the Ross rifles were purchased in the early 1900's for distribution to the Force, but were never issued. On being tested at "Depot" Division, the bolt of one whipped back, causing a man to lose the sight of an eye. The rifles remained in the Q.M. stores and were later destroyed by a fire which swept through the building.

The last Winchester was withdrawn from service in 1912, and in 1920 the Lee-Enfields were taken into stores and shoulder-arms never again became a general issue.

STATISTICS OF ISSUED CARBINES

Model 1867 Snider-Enfield

Length	38 inches
Weight	5¾ lbs.
Barrel	19½ inches
Calibre	.577 inches
Grooves	3
Twist	Right-hand
Maximum sighting range	800 yards

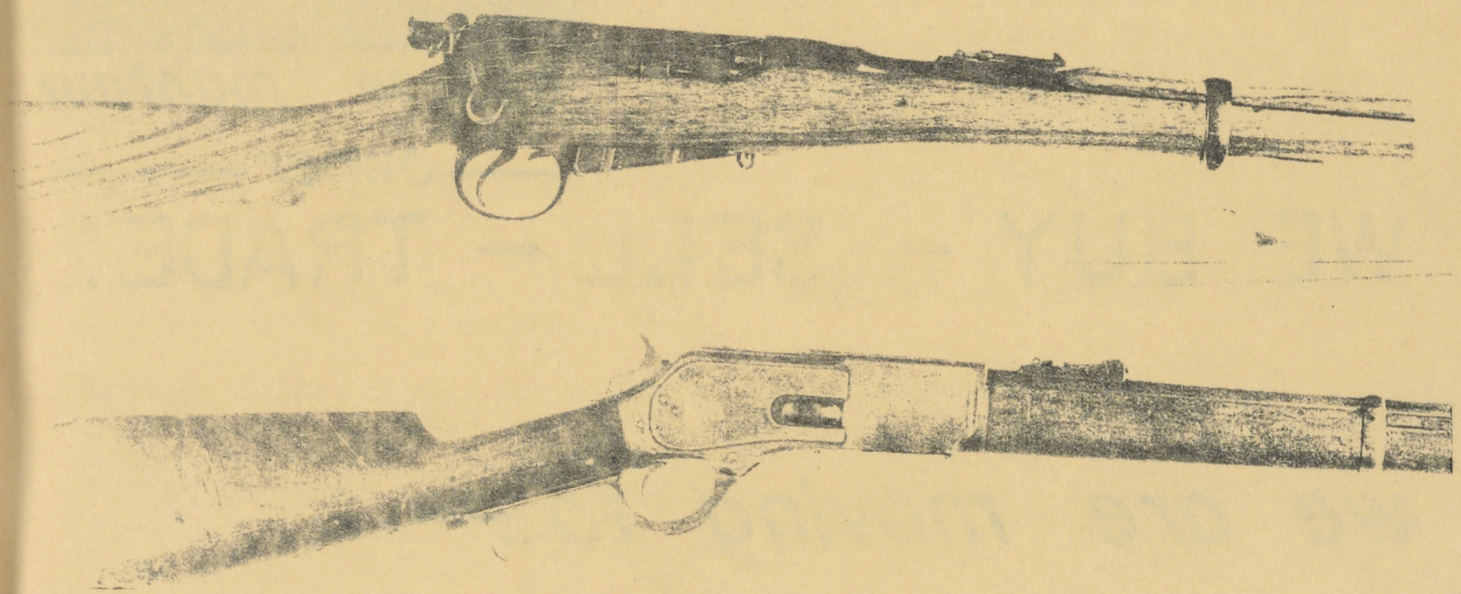
Continued -

Winchester Repeating Carbine, Model 1876

Length	42 inches
Weight	8¼ lbs.
Barrel	22 inches
Calibre	.45 inches
Grooves	6
Twist	Right-hand
Maximum sighting range	1000 yards

Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield Carbines

Length	40 inches	
Weight	7 lbs. 7 oz.	
Barrel	20¾ inches	
Calibre	.303 inches	
Rifling	Medford	Segmental Enfield
Grooves	7	5
Twist	Left	Left
Maximum sighting range	2000 yards	



This article on R.C.M.P. carbines reproduced from the R.C.M.P. Quarterly, Vol. 27 #2, with the permission of the Editor of the Quarterly.

REGINA COIN EXCHANGE.

- Coins.
- Stamps.
- Edged Weapons.
- Rifles.
- Novelties.

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owner

WE BUY - SELL - TRADE.

we are moving to :—

2160 OSLER STREET
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WANTED: Ballard rifle, in any condition providing good stock and butt plate. Luger pistols and carbines. Will trade new Browning guns on any item. Your choice of gun and specification. J. D. Rowan, Plenty, Sask.

WANTED: Percussion Colts and pepperboxes. Will trade full stock percussion rifle; Whitney .31 ca. percussion revolver; Remington Wingmaster 12 gauge pump action shotgun, matted rib, fancy stock, beavertail forearm. Dan Gaynor, 309 Balsam St. N., Timmins, Ont.

WANTED: Stevens single shot rifles, need: Crackshot with underlever, the Maynard Junior, and the Little Scout 14½. Also want other variations.
FOR SALE: 8x Lyman target scope, with mounts and recoil absorber. $60.00 or trade for Stevens single shot rifles, old loading tools, bullet moulds, or powder flasks.
PARTS I NEED: Need left side plate for Winchester 66, and the rifle style butt plate for the 66. John Livingston, Box 171 Sintaluta, Sask.

WANTED: Interested in Canadiana. Have for swap a dandy 233 page Winchester catalogue of 1929; a S & W #3, New Model shoulder stock; a variety of cartridge specimens, etc. Want Canadian arms, ammo, literature, insignia, military equipment, etc. A.M. Provick, Hazlecliffe, Sk.

FOR SALE: The Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association still have on hand a few crests. No more will be ordered for some time. Price $2.50. Write to the Secretary, F. Osipoff, 2665 Winnipeg St., Regina, Sk.

FOR SALE: 38 Special and 38 S & W Reloads $2.50 per box. You supply the brass. Wad cutter or round nose bullets. Targets or regular load.
WANTED: Cartridges - cartridges, any kind, any amount. Will trade. Have single specimens for sale or trade to collectors. Fred Osipoff, 2665 Winnipeg St., Regina, Sask.

WANTED: Ross Rifles, accessories and literature - will trade Colts, Winchesters, etc. or pay cash. Also need Win. '73 or '92 Carbine in 38 WCF or 44 WCF. R. Phillips, 64 Bobolink Bay, Regina, Sask.
FOR SALE: M1849 Colt perc. $89.95; M1851 London Navy Colt perc. $89.95; Colt Frontier SAA.45 stamped "US" $150.00; Colt Frontier "Bisley" 44/40 $75.00; Colt DA .32 "New Pocket" $40.00. permit necessary. Also selling Winchesters, etc., R. Phillips, 64 Bobolink Bay, Regina, Sask.

PARTS I NEED: Hammer-sear and pin for M1886 Winchester, Wm. Hamilton, Box 106, Arcola, Sask.

PARTS I NEED: Hammer-sear, magazine plug, spring and cap for M1886 Winchester. Also Ross parts. R. Phillips, 64 Bobolink Bay, Regina, Sask.

PARTS I NEED: Loading gate and cartridge lifter for M1894 Winchester. Jan Terhart, 1616 Grundeen Cres., Estevan, Sask.

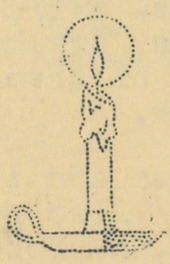
SWAP SHOP continued.

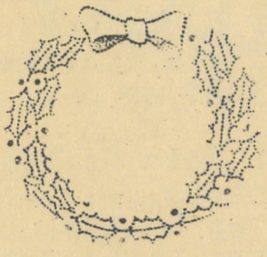
WANTED: High numbered Springfiled action; model 1903, with bolt and magazine. S.J. Kirby, 708 - 18th Ave., East, Regina, Sask.

NEW FOR '62: Revised lists of cartridges for sale and trade. Send 10¢ in stamps. Want Canadian made cartridges, specializing in shotshells. Need D.C.CO. catalofues, posters, boxes, etc. for research. I am seeking paper, needlefire, self contained cartridges, and wire patched bullets. Wish to contact other collectors.
I UNDERSELL THE ARMY & NAVY STORE: Box lots of 30 rem., 32 Rem., and 32/40 @ $2.00 32 L.C. B.P., @ $3.50 : .22 W.R.F. and 22 Win. Auto. @ $1.00. Write Nick Krevosheia, 12231 - 137th Ave., Edmonton, Alta.

WAS YOUR AD IN THIS ISSUE ????

SEASONS GREETINGS





NEW ASSOCATION MEMBERS:

John Jackson	10344 - 117th Ave., Edmonton Alta.
George Curle	435 Belmont Ave., West Kildonan, Man.
Fred Varty	Box 1328, Estevan, Sask.
Norman Nagel	Box 226, Leader, Sask.
Nick Krevosheia	12231 - 137th Ave., Edmonton, Alta.

That makes 99 members to date. Let us try and have 200 at the end of 1962. Every member should try to sign up a new member. HOW ABOUT IT.

PHONE: MU 5-8945

LEVER ARMS SERVICE

LEVER ANTIQUES

653 HOWE STREET
VANCOUVER 1, B.C.

Jobbing:

HI-STANDARD
SMITH & WESSON
F. N. BROWNING
COLT
WHITNEY
M. A. B.
GALESI
STERLING
and
other quality makes

1961 was quite a Year and for the Canadian Gun Collector it was the Year to see the start of the finest Gun Collectors group in Canada, your Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association.

We hope the group will continue to receive the support it merits, and that the united voice of Canadian Gun collectors will be heard over the screams of the "Destroy It Yourself" types.

With the hope that 1962 will see all collectors finding good buys, and dealers good buyers.

Alan Lever

Alan Lever.

P.S. We move shop on February 1st to larger premises
761 Dunsmuir, at Howe.

PHONE: MU 5-8945

LEVER ARMS SERVICE

LEVER ANTIQUES

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COLT
WHITNEY
M. A. B.
GALESI
STERLING
and
other quality makes

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE MODERN ARMS COLLECTOR

Genuine U.S. Army M.1. Carbines, cal. 30 Ml. In excellent condition, perfect metal, good wood and only 99.50

F.N. NATO Assault rifle, semi automatic only. Similar to the latest Canadian Army issue. Brand new from Belgium on limited production,

Standard weight	175.00
Light weight	180.00

Austrian Steyr Mannlicher 8mm Short Rifle Model of 1895. Straight pull. Very good metal, wood good. A fine collector's item for $15.00

The same gun is available in the long musket model, Condition shows rougher wear, price same $15.00

Dutch issue Mannlicher 95, turn bolt action. Cal 6.5 rimmed . Ammunition still available from England. Condition fairly good 15.00

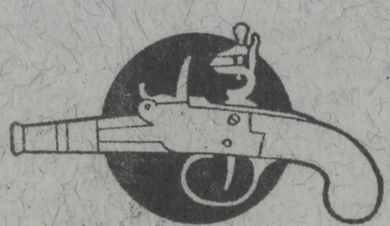
Italian Vetterli short cavalry carbine , complete with bayonet, average good condition, would clean up to something really good $15.00

9mm Polish Radom pistols, commercially reblued and reproofed. Shoots regular 9mm Luger fodder $45.00

U.S. Springfield 1822 model converted to percussion during the US Civil War, ramrod missing but complete with triangular bayonet. Condition quite good and only 52.50

Winchester 92, cal 25-20, reblued action and octagonal barrel, condition quite good but bore is rough $40.00

Three left at the reduced price of 99.50. Crown Grade Husqvana rifles in 308 cal only, brand factory new in sealed cartons for 99.50.



DISTRIBUTORS OF ANTIQUE AND MODERN FIREARMS

R.C.M.P. DEALERS PERMIT 832

U.S. FEDERAL FIREARMS PERMIT 91-587

SASKATCHEWAN GUN COLLECTORS ASSN.
c/o Fred Osipoff
3308 Victoria Ave.
Regina, Sask.

Fellow Member:

The Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association is holding the first MEETING and SHOW. Come one - come all, a good time is assured.

TIME: Sunday, April 16, 1961. 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

PLACE: Saskatoon Sask. in the I.O.D.E. Hall, 2nd floor C.P.R. Bld. (On 2nd Ave., two blocks from C.N. station)

We will have tables for rent at only $1.00 to cover expenses. We urge members to brin g along some of the good pieces from thier collectoins for display. Show the boys what you have.

Also bring along your TRADERS. There will be no better time for selling and trading of guns and ammo that at this show and meeting.

There has been some talk of holding an auction of guns at this meeting. If there is a demand for this type of activity and there are guns to auction there will be an auction held. If you have a gun you want auctioned let us know at the meeting. You may put a reserve price in the gun if you wish.

IMPORTANT: If you bring handguns to the show be sure to check with your local police for a permit. The association will not be responsible for handguns brought without a permit.

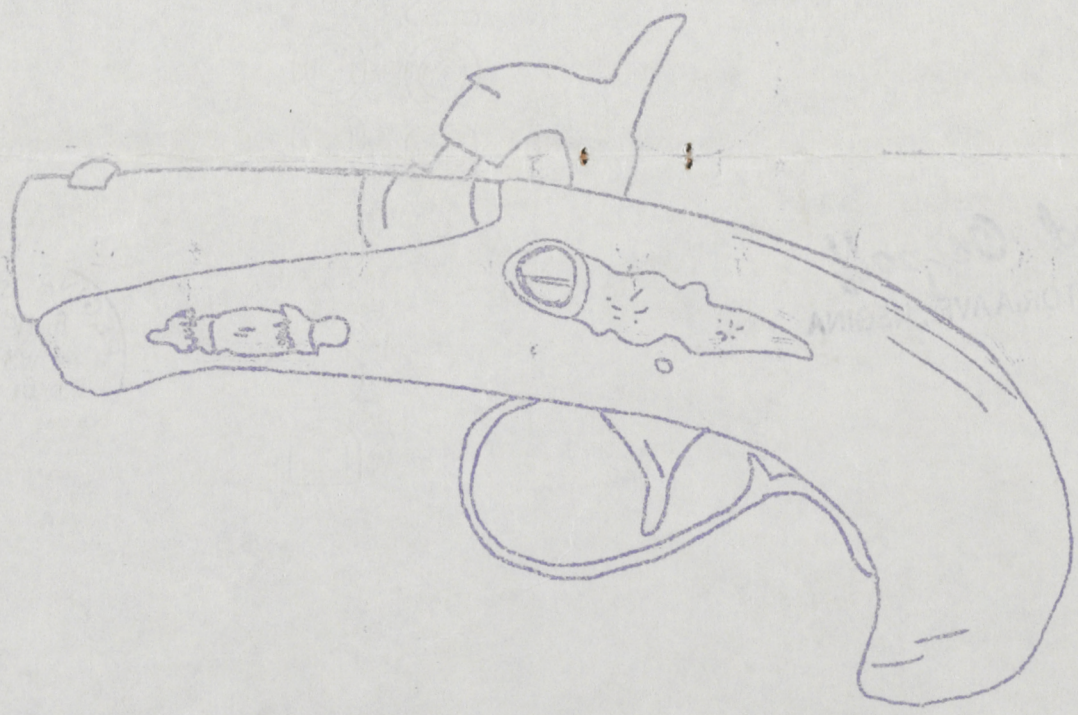
The first newsletter is now in your hands. What do you think of it? Drop us a line and let us know. Any comments as to how it can be improved will be most welcome. The next newsletter will be out in June.

The deadline for adds in the next newsletter is May 31st. If you have any questions the deadline for these is May 15th, so we have time to dig up an answer.

Rember: We need the support of all members with adds in PARTS I NEED, WANTED, FOR SALE, and SWAP, to cut costs on the newsletter, so be sure to send in an add. We now have over 50 members and your add will be seen by most of the gun collectors in the province.

The buisness of area directors will be brought up at this meeting and other important matters will be discused.

FOR THE BEST TIME IN YOUR GUN COLLECTING LIFE ** COME TO THE FIRST GUN SHOW OF THE SASK GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION ** BRING YOUR GUN THAT YOUR AUNT BERTHA USED TO KEEP UNDER HER PILLOW FOR PROTECTION AGAINST PROWLERS (AND UNCLE FRED)



Fred Osipoff
3308 VICTORIA AVE., REGINA

REGINA SASK.
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1961
CANADA

FIGHT CANCER
GIVE NOW

2¢ CANADA 2¢

William Hamilton
Arcola Sask.